

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BERRIEN COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE:)
Declaration of Judicial Emergency)

ORDER

BERRIEN COUNTY, GEORGIA
FILED IN OFFICE
2024 SEP 25 AM 10:06
Sharon C. Hyatt
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

The undersigned Judge of the Superior Court of Berrien County, Georgia in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit does hereby declare the existence of a judicial emergency in Berrien County, Georgia, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-3-60, et. seq. The nature of this emergency is due to Tropical Storm Helene which is expected to affect this judicial circuit on or about September 26-27, 2024. The undersigned makes this declaration in conformance with the Order by Governor Brian Kemp of the existence of a state of emergency in Southeast Georgia counties issued on September 24, 2024. Accordingly, it is the order of the court that Berrien County Superior Courts and Juvenile Courts be closed for business on September 26-27, 2024, and to reopen for business on September 30, 2024 at the regular time. To aid in the conduct of official business, the public should reach out to the Berrien County Superior Court Clerk of Court's office at (229) 686-5506 for additional information on court operations.

Given the uncertain nature or duration of this emergency, the court hereby suspends, tolls, extends and otherwise grants relief from all deadline or other time scheduled or filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters, including, but not limited to:

1. A statute of limitation;
2. The time within which to issue a warrant;
3. The time within which to try a case for which a demand for speedy trial has been filed;
4. The time within which to hold a commitment hearing;
5. A deadline or other schedule regarding the detention of a juvenile;
6. The time within which to return a bill of indictment or an accusation or to bring a matter before a grand jury;

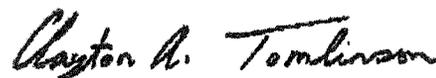
7. The time within which to file a writ of habeas corpus;
8. The time within which discovery or any aspect thereof is to be completed;
9. The time within which to serve a party;
10. The time within which to appeal or to seek the right to appeal any order, ruling, or other determination;
11. The time within which hearings must be held in stalking and family violence cases, all ex parte relief is continued until next scheduled hearing in said matters; and
12. Such other legal proceedings as may be determined to be necessary.

The relief granted herein expires at 11:59pm on September 27, 2024 unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Because the court expects all public buildings within the county to be closed for an indeterminate period of time, the court is unable to designate another facility for the transaction of court business. Should the state of emergency extend beyond the closure period indicated above, the court will make a determination of an available, appropriate facility for the conduct of court business when it is appropriate to do so.

This order shall be served upon the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals and the respective clerks thereof; all judges and clerks in Berrien County, Georgia, of the Alapaha Judicial Circuit; all lawyers and litigants if possible; and the pertinent newspapers in said county. The Clerk is ordered to post this order conspicuously in their respective courthouses.

SO ORDERED, this 25TH day of September, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in Berrien County, Georgia.



CLAYTON A. TOMLINSON
CHIEF JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURT
Alapaha Judicial Circuit